

JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

Chairman
Tsunetaro Miyakoda

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Editors:
Kaname Tsukahara
ROBERT NORTHUP

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Women's Christian Temperance Union Holds 55th Annual Meeting

On April 14 - 16, the fifty-fifth mass meeting of the Women's Christian Temperance Union in Japan was held at Amagi Sanso, Izu. Plans were made for the coming three years, and two new divisions (audio-visual division and public relations division) were recognized and an additional vice-president was added to the list of officers. Presiding over the meeting was president Mrs. Kuni Sawano with Mrs. Ochimi Kubushiro and Mrs. Masako Takegami, vice-presidents.

Among the points of business and actions of the meeting, five were prominent: (1) Reinforcement of supervision of the present law regarding prostitution was demanded. Specific points for urged control are (a) red light areas, (b) hot springs areas, (c) control of street walkers and their contact men, (d) strict control of geisha, hotels, and restaurants.

(2) More substantial plans must be made for the rehabilitation of street walkers. This must include enlargement of institutions with adequate counselling and securing or guaranteeing the status of Women counselors. To make rehabilitation procedures more adequate, medical facilities must be improved, guidance through probation rather than by training is necessary, and supervision must continue for those released from places of correction. Too, homes for low wage earners must be prepared and the government must raise its standard of support.

(3) In regard to alteration or revision of the present law, there must be punishment for simple prostitution and adequate punishment for contact men. The "turkish bath" centers must be controlled by legislation. In order to counteract the spread of venereal disease throughout the nation, all medical care for victims must be given by the government with an extension of the length of period of guidance for violators of the law.

(4) As a positive measure, purity education must be promoted, both in schools and in society at large. Within the compulsory education system, there must also be included adequate instruction which will enable people to grasp the purpose of the social welfare system.

(5) These measures necessitate an increase in the budget.

It was also strongly emphasized that drinking scenes on television and space for advertising of liquor on radio and television should be curtailed.

EACS Holds 49th Annual Meeting

The Education Association of Christian Schools in Japan held its 49th annual meeting, May 21 - 22 at Diefendorfer Memorial Hall, on the campus of International Christian University. It 75 member schools (juridical persons) actually include 208 schools. These were represented by 286 persons at the meeting.

Among the important decisions were (1) In relation to the Centennial of the Christian mission in Japan, and in cooperation with the NCC, it was decided to honor teachers in Christian schools with over 30 years service. Each will be presented with a Bible and a hymnal. Among the 200 teachers to be thus honored are: Miss Virginia M. MacKenzie, Joshi Gakuin, Tokyo; Miss Esther Rhoades, Friend Gakuin, Tokyo; Mr. Karl E. Branstad, Rikkyo Daigaku, Tokyo; Miss M. Fern Scruton, Shizuoka Eiwa, Shizuoka; Miss Mabel Whitehead, Seiwa Junior College, Nishinomiya; Miss Cecile Lancaster, Seinan Jo Gakuin, Kokura. The teacher with the longest service among the 7,000 teachers in Christian schools is Mr. Taro Negishi, 86 years old, who is now at Rikkyo. He has served for 60 year; Next to him in length of service is Miss Take Kokawa of Hirosaki Gakuin with 49 years of service.

(2) In the current meeting, three schools were accepted as new members of the association. Seikatsu Gakuin of Morioka is a private school founded in 1951. Under the able direction of a Christian principal, Mrs. Yasuko Hosokawa, it has committed itself to a Christian centered policy of education. Shikoku Gakuin Tanki Gakko (Junior College), related to the Presbyterian Church, U.S., was granted accreditation by the Japanese ministry of education in April, and subsequently was accepted as a member of the association. It presents a liberal arts course. Seiwa Joshikotogakko (Woman's High School) founded in 1901, is in Kochishi, Shikoku and is also related to the Presbyterian Church, U.S. The chairman of the board of trustees of both Shikoku Gakuin and Seiwa is the Rev. James A. Cogswell.

(3) At present, a survey is in progress which will deal with the history of Christian schools in Japan, their present condition, and consider what their future is to be. It was decided to publish the results of this survey in book form at the end of the year in conjunction with the centennial celebration.

This year, for the first time, a special lecturer was invited to address the assembly. Dr. Seiji Kaya, president of Tokyo University, was chosen and spoke on "The Progress of Science and Its Social Influence." Dr. Kaya noted that with the advance of scientific knowledge and of mechanism, men are faced with the new problem which arises with the non-use of the labor of men. Further, with the new cosmic weapons, there is the possibility of world catastrophe, and it is important to ask what kind of men will control these. Therefore, education to deal with this problem becomes important, and Christian education both in Japan and throughout the world is necessary. This problem must be seen as a challenge and not as a difficulty. It is also necessary to consider that as working hours decrease, the use of leisure time becomes important. It is a religious problem to ask what men will do with their time.

Japan Delegates Attend East Asia Christian Conference

At the inaugural General Assembly of the East Asia Christian Conference held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaya, May 14 - 23, Japan was represented by a variety of delegates. Representing the Kyodan and NCC -- Dr. Takeshi Muto; Kyodan delegate - Dr. Darley Downs; Consultants on Rapid Social Change - Professors Masao Takenaka and Keiichiro Shimada of Doshisha University and Yoshiaki Iizaka of Peers College; Japan Church World Service - The Rev. Kentaro Buma and the Rev. Hallam Macrock (also representing Korea Church World Service); Youth Department of the Kyodan - the Rev. Noboru Nishido; Pan Literature Commission - the Rev. Norimichi Ebizawa; AVACO and the East Asia Audio Visual Agency - Messrs. Matthew Ogawa and Vern Cassman.

As the beginning of a new epoch in ecumenical history, the conference was attended by more than 180 delegates, consultants, and visitors who represented twenty three member councils and churches of Asia. Except for western delegates from member churches in Japan (Dr. Downs), Australia, and New Zealand and from three national Councils, the voting membership was composed of Asian delegates.

Addresses were given by Dr. W. A. Visser't Hooft, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, and Bishop Leslie Newbigin, Chairman-elect of the International Missionary Council, as well as by Dr. D. T. Bales, EAOC General Secretary; Mr. Kyaw Than, Associate Secretary; Dr. Leslie Cook of the WCC; Dr. Norman Goodall, Joint Secretary of the WCC; and Dr. M. M. Thomas of India. Many felt that the outstanding address by an Asian delegate was that of Dr. Masao Takenaka, who also gave valuable contributions in debate, both in plenary sessions and the action on Rapid Social Change. He was named Chairman of the committee of the laity. Dr. Muto was re-elected as a member of both the Continuation Committee representing Japan and of the smaller Working Committee.

A memorable event was a dinner attended by about eight delegates from Korea and Japan, which was arranged by the Rev. Kentaro Buma. Each person spoke with good will and expressed impressive desires for future improved relations between the two countries. Also present was Dr. John C. Smith of the United Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., a long-time missionary in Japan and until recently secretary for work in Japan and Korea under the United Presbyterian Church, U. S. A.

Another remarkable outcome was the invitation from the Malayan youth movement to the Rev. Noboru Nishido to join Miss Eppie Castro and others in a tour of the principal cities of Malaya. Just as the assembly itself seemed to have contributed to alleviation of anti-Japanese feeling in Malaya, so it is hoped that Mr. Nishido's tour will enhance this contribution.

BRIEF NOTES:

Under sponsorship of the Youth Commission of the NCC in Japan, four summer projects are planned for summer, 1959. Two ecumenical work camps for young people, aged 19 - 30, will participate in construction work: at Kumazaka, Izu Peninsula, campers will aid in reconstruction of the Flood and typhoon site of September, 1958. Also at Okunakayama farm buildings will be constructed for the Japan Church World Service Rural Center, which is a breeding center for the Heifer Project. Dates for both areas are July 15 to August 12; language is English and Japanese, with participation limited to 25 members. A Youth caravan will also be held in Izu Peninsula, at Nanjo, July 15 to 28; a high school work camp is scheduled for Kyushu, July 27 to August 10; and a students in industry project will be held at Osaka, July 20 to August 20.

May 24 - 31 was celebrated as Christian Youth Week in NCC related churches, with the theme: "Our Hands Shall Forge the Way into the 2nd Century of Mission".

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The Rev. Keikichi Shirai, Moderator of the Kyodan, has been invited to attend the convention of the Reformed Church Association in Sao Paulo Brazil, July 27 - August 8. En route he will attend the second convention of the United Church of Christ in America, July 5 - 9, at Oberlin. In Brazil he will also confer with two Japanese ministers who are sponsored by the Kyodan, the Rev. Munekata and the Rev. Yamahata.

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Miss Umeko Kagawa, at present working in the Student Center, Shinanomachi, Tokyo, has been named as secretary of World Youth Projects, under the WCC and WCCE. With offices in both Geneva and New York, she will visit churches in South America, Africa, and Asia, coordinating youth work. She is a graduate of Kansei Gakuin and Yale Divinity School.

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Reporting on progress of the Osaka Christian Crusade, Bob Pierce, President of World Vision, Inc., has listed a total of 3,300 responses to the invitation to become Christian believers. Through ticket distribution, a largely new audience has been in attendance at each of the evening meetings. Special emphasis on layman's witness has been made in daytime meetings also: Dr. Paul S. Rees, World Vision Vice-President at large is conducting seminars for pastors and William C. Jones, Los Angeles, is sponsoring special businessmen's luncheons. Now being held in the Festival Hall, music has been provided by the 75-piece Kyoto Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra. In gratitude for its service, World Vision recently presented the orchestra with a new \$4500 harp.

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Recent visitors to Japan are Dr. Alma Hunt, Executive Secretary of the Woman's Missionary Union, Southern Baptist Convention; and Mrs. R. Mathis, president of the Woman's Missionary Union. During a ten-day stay in Japan they are reviewing the work of the Southern Baptist Convention in churches, schools, and medical centers. Dr. Joe Davis, Macock and R. Marnes Rawls have come to Japan to aid in a nation-wide church membership training program. For three weeks they will conduct area conferences and seminars, aided by the Rev. Kunihiro Watanabe and Morris J. Wright.

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Miss Katherine Johnson, former dean of women at Wesleyan College, Macon, Ga. (1941-1954), and Hiroshima College for Women, Japan (1924-1941), died on May 21. During the past five years, until retiring in January, she served as executive secretary for the Interboard Committee for Christian Work in Japan and Okinawa, in New York.

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About 30 interested people attended the third Conference on Reformed Theology at the Osaka Christian Center, May 4 - 5. With addresses by the convener, The Rev. Raymond Hammer, Anglican, "Worship in the Scriptures and the Early Church," and by the Rev. Donald Clugston, United Church of Canada, "Worship in the Writings of John Calvin," a vigorous discussion came in the period after the panel discussion on "Patterns of Worship," led by representatives of Continental and American Reformed traditions. The closing service of worship was led by the Rev. Howard B. Haines, pastor, Tokyo Union Church. The convening committee for next year is composed of the Rev. Clugston; the Rev. David B. Van Dyck, and Dr. W. A. McIlwaine. The conference topic will be "The Doctrine of the Church."

